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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/657,961

09/08/2003

Chales Leu

3055

25859

7590

11/03/2004

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EXAMINER

LEE, GUIYOUNG


ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2875

DATE MAILED: 11/03/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

<p align="center"><b>Office Action Summary</b></p>	<b>Application No.</b> 10/657,961	<b>Applicant(s)</b> LEU ET AL.	
	<b>Examiner</b> Guiyoung Lee	<b>Art Unit</b> 2875	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on \_\_\_\_.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**.                      2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
     Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
     Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All    b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)<br>2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)<br>3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>0903</u> . | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____.<br>5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)<br>6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____. |
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## DETAILED ACTION

### *Priority*

1. Receipt is acknowledged of papers submitted under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d), which papers have been placed of record in the file.

### *Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103*

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 1-17 and 19-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tanaka et al. (US 6,474,826 B1).

Re claims 1-4, 13 and 19-20: Tanaka discloses a planar surface illuminator having a light guide plate comprising an optical input surface (20 in Fig. 1), LEDs (40 in Fig. 25) positioned to a side of the light guide plate, a number of tetrahedron shaped dot-patterns having a same size (15 and 16 in Fig. 25) positioned on and integrated with optical input surface. Tanaka does not disclose a group of at least three scattering dot-patterns, each group having a LED. However, Tanaka teaches that the number of LEDs can be increased as required (col. 7, lines 20-24). It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to increase Tanaka's LED to three LEDs in order to improve the uniformity of the luminance.

Re claims 5 and 9: Liu discloses the different size of the scattering dot-pattern as set forth in the claim (Paragraph 0022).

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Re claim 6-9: Tanaka discloses that scattering patterns are formed as concave and the dot-patterns have a same size (17 in Fig. 25).

Re claims 10-12: Since claims 10-12 are product-by-process claims, the method limitations that are "injection molding process" or "printing process" are not given patentable weight. Even though product-by-process claims are limited by and defined by the process, determination of patentability is based on the product itself. The patentability of a product does not depend on its method of production. If the product in the product-by-process claim is the same as or obvious from a product of the prior art, the claim is unpatentable even though the prior product was made by a different process." *In re Thorpe*, 777 F. 2d 695, 698, 227 USPQ 964, 966 (Fed Cir. 1985).

Re claims 14-15: Tanaka teaches a reflective film on a bottom surface of the light guide plate (col. 9, lines 9-30).

Re claims 16-17: Tanaka discloses a rectangular plane plate of the light guide plate having an optical output surface, a bottom surface, first and second side surfaces, and a third side surface, the bottom surface having a plurality of reflective dot-patterns thereon and the reflective dot-patterns are uniformly spaced on the bottom surface (See 20 in Fig. 1).

4. Claim 18 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tanaka as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of Colgan et al. (US 6,648,485 B1). The teachings of Tanaka have been discussed above.

Re claim 18: Tanaka does not disclose that the optical light guide is shaped as a wedge.

However, Colgan teaches a wedge shaped light guide (Fig. 4A). It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the planar

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surface illuminator of Tanaka to include the wedge shaped light guide as taught by Colgan in order to provide uniform illumination.

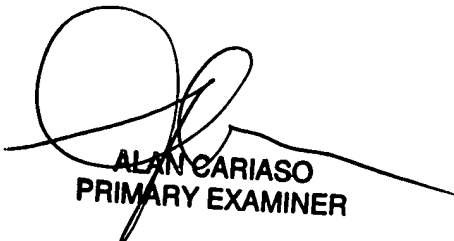
***Conclusion***

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Guiyoung Lee whose telephone number is 571-272-2374. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Sandra O'Shea can be reached on 571-272-2378. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

LGY

  
ALAN CARIASO  
PRIMARY EXAMINER